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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Moscow Oblast)

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SUBJECT V-Weapon Plant No. 456 in Moscow-Khimki

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1. Location: See Annex 1
2. Lenin Institute 150 x 30 meters. Soviet civilians said experiments on the properties of various species of woods were made here. No details available.
3. Aircraft Plant No 301, about 200 meters northwest of the Lenin Institute. (The numerical designation of this plant was learned from PWs who had worked in this plant up to late 1947). The plant covered 1,000 x 500 meters and had a railroad connection to the Moscow-Leningrad railroad line. Source did not enter the plant and therefore could not furnish detailed data. He only observed that the aircraft produced there were never towed to the factory field but were all shipped by rail. From [REDACTED] who worked in the plant it was learned that FW-190 duplicates were built there.
4. Plant No 456:

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Propulsive units for V-2 missiles, used for experimental launches at the launching site, were produced in the plant. This plant, known in the camp by the numerical designation 456, covered 1,000 x 100 meters. The buildings were erected by Trust No 17. The propulsive charges were produced in a workshop 600 x 500 meters. Machines were set up in an empty workshop from January to June 1948. These machines arrived in boxes by rail. [REDACTED] saw that each box was marked with the inscription Nordhausen. When the installation of the machines was completed in June 1948, production began. At that time the plant became off limits to all PWs so that no details on the production could be reported. However, the first activities [REDACTED] the punching of work pieces and the aluminum body for the propulsive unit which at first had two half-cylinders. [REDACTED] a V-2 missile in this workshop. Estimated length of the V-2: 17 meters, diameter: 2 meters.

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[redacted] the propulsive unit several times every day when it was taken to the launching tower.

V-2 propulsive unit.

Length: About $1\frac{1}{2}$ meters, diameter: About 2 meters. About one third of the length consisted of a confusing entanglement of red and blue aluminum pipes from 20 to 60 mm thick and emanating from the closed section of the propellant charge.

The head side of the charge tapered to a diameter of 1 meter. Fifteen 40-mm high steel discs with a diameter of 60 mm and an aperture of 30 mm were welded on it. The adjoining closed section of the cylinder was of aluminum. In it were two cylinder-shaped boxes 700 mm long and 400 mm in diameter, followed by the entanglement of aluminum pipes.

These propulsion units were taken to a launching site about 2 km north of the plant near the airfield.

The launching tower: (See Annex 2)

The tower was 6 meters square and about 12 meters high. It was built of reinforced concrete and had three departments.

1st Department: Four 5-ton steel flasks filled with liquid air were standing in this department. The walls of the flasks were 15 mm thick and the flasks were 5 meters high.

2nd Department: It was above the 1st Department and was the launching site proper. It had a hole facing northwest. The propellant units were hauled into this department by means of two rails. The propulsion units just fitted into the hole in the wall. The hole was closed from within by a semi-circular door made of reinforced concrete.

The department was also equipped with about 50 measuring instruments to record various data observed at the launching of the missile. The measuring room, opposite the launching aperture, was reached through an iron staircase.

3rd Department: The top story. The department was equipped with two aluminum boilers, $2\frac{1}{2}$ meters in diameter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ meters high each. The boilers were filled with 96 per cent alcohol.

Both the flasks of the 1st Department and the boilers of the 3rd Department were connected with the 2nd Department by pipes. Wires led from the measuring room to the launching room. No details available.

Transport of the propulsion units:

The crated propulsion units protected against repercussions were trucked to the launching tower. At the tower they were hoisted by an electric crane into the launching department.

The launching:

When the missile was launched, a darting flame estimated at 300 meters and a loud roar developed. An enormous heat also developed. Up to four propellant charges were fired every day.

Rate of production:

It could not be stated whether the propellant charges fired every day represented the entire production. Outgoing shipments of such charges were never observed.

Work force:

Exact figures could not be given. However, [redacted] the change of shifts when about 300 civilian workers left the plant after a corresponding number of workers had entered. According to Soviets, three shifts were worked in Plant No. 456.

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German technical personnel:

It was generally known that 15 German engineers and 3 German technicians were employed in the plant. Source, however, never saw them. It was forbidden to talk with these engineers and, [redacted] the engineers also refrained from conversation with the PWs. Source learned that [redacted] Putzer, Haase, Winkowski, and Baum were the names of other German

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engineers who worked mainly in small shops which were equipped as designing offices and laboratories. There were about 12 such buildings.

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☐ Comment:

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a. The Lenin Institute near Plant No. 301 was frequently mentioned ☐ without any data on its purpose. From this unconfirmed report it can be inferred that the Lenin Plant is an experimental plant for the testing of specially treated woods, also designated "delta wood" by the Soviets, and of other pressed materials.

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b. Since Plant No. 301 was called an aircraft development plant ☐ the statement on the purpose of the Lenin Plant seems credible. The alleged production of FW-190 planes, is, however, impossible. This statement may serve as a hint on the production of LA-designs.

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c. The production in Plant No. 456 probably started as early as 1946. Pertinent reports dated as early as 1947 have been received. The launching tower was, however, completed later as the first reported launchings took place in the fall of 1948. The number of the daily launchings is concordantly given at 4 or 5. The names of the German engineers employed in the plant are confirmed. According to former reports, 100 to 150 German technical personnel are employed in Plant No. 456.

2 Annexes: 1 - Layout Sketch of V-Weapons Plant No. 456 in Moscow-Khimki
2 - Launching Tower at the V-Weapons Plant No. 456.

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